



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2010

OUR MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County, in both its values and practices, is committed to inclusion and diversity.

This means:

There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of economic position, gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

We recognize that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making.

We believe inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

We affirm our commitment to reflecting the diversity of Saratoga County.



Communication: New Choices

*Thursday, September 23rd
Potluck at 6, Program at 7pm,
Community Room, SS Library*

Speakers: Christine Alexander & Beth DellaRocco

In concert with a national LWVUS initiative to enhance the use of electronic communications, your local League is holding a forum to review various e-communication vehicles that are available to us as an activist organization. We are fortunate to have the expertise of two League members, Chris Alexander and Beth DellaRocco, who will showcase some of the capabilities the Board could enlist to advance issues and attract members.

Be able to talk with your kids and grandkids about how they do all that new-fangled stuff!

This is the direct result of a communication audit chaired by Patricia Nugent, our 2nd VP for Public Relations, last spring. Those serving on the task force recommended a more concerted look at how technology can be used to better inform and mobilize our membership.

HURRAH FOR LWV SARATOGA!

A forum presented as a service to voters in Saratoga Springs:

*Pro's and Con's of the Proposed New
Charter for Saratoga Springs*

Tuesday, September 28th, 7pm

Dutcher Community Room of the SS Public Library

Overview: Robert Turner, PhD.

Pro: Pat Kane—Con: Jane Weihe

As this Bulletin goes to press it appears likely that the ballot could contain a question asking whether or not Saratoga Springs should adopt a new Charter. This may be the only venue where voters can hear both sides of the issue discussed in a rational, civil manner. The moderator will be LWV member Francine Rodger, who lives in Clifton Park.

Be sure to check the website www.lwvsaratoga.org for any last minute changes.



**League of Women Voters
of Saratoga County (NY-639)**

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&

Selma Harwood, 230 Nelson Av., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
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TAKE ME TO VOTE!

Mary Ratzler 433 County Rd 68, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
587-8376

Voters Service- Candidate Events

Ann Kril, 60 Hillcrest Drive, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
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From the President—

The summer has been hot, the swimming has been marvelous in the Adirondacks, the race track opened, the cultural offerings at SPAC and other venues have been many and good, the flowers and produce at the Farmers' Market were early and abundant BUT that doesn't mean that League members haven't been at work:

The Voters' Service Committee, under the able direction of **Ann Kril**, has planned for four Candidate Forums and for a program to help Saratoga Springs voters make up their minds if they want to vote for or against a new charter for the city – something that may be on the ballot on November 2. See the list of Voters' Service Events on page 4. Other members of the committee are **Janice Burns, Mary Lou Classen, Millie Green, Debbie Peck Kelleher, Terry Lowenthal, and Francine Rodger**. As the events draw nearer they'll be recruiting timers, moderators, greeters, etc. to help. Please save them a call by volunteering to Ann at 584-1436.

The group working to develop an **Electronic Voters' Guide for the Capital Region** includes representatives from the Capital District Leagues, and was initiated by our reps, **Christine Alexander, Ann Kril and Francine Rodger**.

Adirondack Trust Company underwrites the entire cost of the printed LWVNY Voters' Guides that we distribute at the Farmers' Market, Peace Fair, other community events, Candidate Forums, and to all the Southern Adirondack Library System Libraries. Thanks to **Helen Crawshaw, Mary Jane Ellis, Pattie Garrett, Louise Golub, Terry Lowenthal, Rosemary Schlesinger, Barbara Stamas and Bob Thomas** for showing up to put on the stickers and bundle the Guides.

The people who've staffed our booth at the **Farmers' Market**, and those who will before the season concludes, are much to numerous to mention here – but they know who they are, and they are appreciated. Kudos to **Pattie Garrett** for organizing them and getting the booth and all the supplies there every other Saturday. There's still time to volunteer for a shift and get in on the fun. Call Pattie at 584-4271.

The Schedule of LWV Events listed on page 6 took a lot of thinking and planning. I especially want to thank **Selma Harwood**, who chaired the first meeting of the committee that consisted of **Lori Dawson, Amy Durland, Amanda Lester, Barbara Murphy, Pat Nugent**. And I thank the board members who met in August to continue the work of the committee and provide a quorum for adopting the schedule.

If you missed the Annual Meeting you missed the fellowship and the good food, but you can access my inspiring remarks on our website, and **Kathy Sephas** made a DVD of **David Grandeau's** remarks which you can borrow.

Barb

LADIES & GENTLEMEN!
Step Right Up
& participate in the
World's Most Amazing Democracy!

HURRAH FOR LWV of SARATOGA COUNTY!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

6:30-8:30 PM

Circus Cafe, 392 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY

Learn about the astounding work the League does in our community!!

Hear about our exciting projects!!!

Questions & Answers about the Astonishing League!!!

Meet & Greet with fabulous current, new and prospective members!!!

Enjoy Spectacular Food and Beverages!!!

RSVP BY SEPT.22*

The Membership Committee is giving this party for New & Prospective Members!

You should attend if...

- you joined the LWV since last Fall,
- you invite prospective members to join you,
- you are willing to mentor a new members.

You can invite people on your own or give the names and contact information to the membership committee and they will invite them for you. Or talk to people

about the event and get them to agree to attend.

Please ask people to join LWV and/or to attend this event. The membership committee has set an ambitious goal of getting 20 new/prospective members to attend the event and/or join LWV. We need your help to succeed in recruiting the future participants and leaders of LWV.

Remember, both men and women are welcome to join!

**Cash bar for alcoholic beverages. *For more information and to RSVP:
Please contact Lori Dawson, Membership Director at: 580-0547 or ldpeacegal@gmail.com**

Marie Morrison

1928 – 2010

She Made a Difference!

Marie was a founding member and board member of the League of Women Voters of Shenendehowa, and later, a member of LWV Saratoga County until the time of her death. Marie was also one of the five Charter applicants and founders of the Shenendehowa Free Library. (Later re-named the Clifton Park- Halfmoon Public Library).

Primarily a writer, Marie was a lifelong supporter of libraries. She founded the (recently re-named) Marie Morrison Library Outreach Program where she singlehandedly delivered more than 40,000 books to jails, prisons, schools and hospitals.

Marie worked as a writer for the American Geographical Society with Dr. William O. Field, an expert on glacial fluctuations, and then later used this knowledge while working for G. Oliver Koppell at the NY Assembly Conservation Committee. She authored several books and booklets.

And she did a whole lot more!

Our sympathy to Marie's husband, Charlie Morrison, her family and friends.

If you want to learn more about Marie see the four column obituary that ran in The Saratogian on August 7, 2010.

VOTERS' SERVICE EVENTS

Sept. 28 – Tuesday – SSPL – **Pro's and Con's of Proposed New Charter for Saratoga Springs**
7pm

Oct. 12 – Tuesday – Maple Ave School, SS
Candidate Forum: 44th NYS Senate & 110th Assembly District – 7pm

Oct. 13 – Wednesday – Malta Community Center
Candidate Forum: 43rd NYS Senate & County Family Court Judges – 7pm

Oct. 21 – Thursday – Century House, breakfast –
Candidate Forum: 109th Assembly District.

Oct. 25 – Monday – **Candidate Forum: 109th Assembly District** – Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library – 6:45pm

Thanks to our contributors

To LWVSC

**Carol Fleming
Florence Harshe
Robert &
Josie Pasciullo
Barbara Stamas**

To LWNVYEF

**Christine Alexander
Denny Finneran
Eleanor Lahey
Peter Martin**

Welcome New Members

Donna Dardaris



Janice Burns & Betty Gallagher at Farmers Market booth.

50 and FABULOUS! THE BIRTH CONTROL PILL

One small pill
One giant leap for womankind
One monumental moment in history!



**TIME TO RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**

Send in your dues today!



ANNUAL MEETING REVISITED

The morning of June 4th brought 40 LWV members to the Gideon Putnam for a delicious breakfast, good friends, a new board and renewed commitment to strengthening our democracy. Our speaker was David Grandeau, J.D. who addressed Ethics in Government. He encouraged us to take bold stands.



Above: Diane Whitburn passes the Carrie Chapman Catt awarded to Pat Reed.



Right : David Grandeau speaks about Ethics in Government



Left: Leaguers enjoy good food with good talk and good friends.



Your new Board of Directors are (L to R front): Barbara Thomas, Selma Harwood, Mary Lou Classen, Lori Dawson, Pat Nugent, Diane Whitburn. (back row) Margot Ammon, Pattie Garrett, Patricia Reed, Millie Greene, Katherine Chansky, Ann Krill and Barbara Murphy.



SAVE THESE DATES!

Our Schedule for 2010 -2011

- Sept. 14** - Tuesday—**Primary** – noon to 9pm
- Sept. 19** – Sunday—Peace Fair—NE Presbyterian Congregational Church, afternoon
- Sept. 23** Thursday – SSPL* – **Communication: New Choices** – 7pm
- Sept. 28** – Tuesday – SSPL* – **Pro’s and Con’s of Proposed New Charter for Saratoga Springs** – 7pm
- Sept. 29** – Wednesday – Circus Café – **Hurrah for the LWV! (orientation for new and prospective members)** – cash bar – 6:30 to 8:30pm
- Oct 12** - Tuesday – Maple Ave School, SS - **Candidate Forum: 44th NYS Senate & 110th Assembly District** 7pm
- Oct. 13** – Wednesday – Malta Community Center – **Candidate Forum: 43rd NYS Senate & County Family Court Judges** – 7pm
- Oct. 21** – Thursday – **Candidate Forum: 109th Assembly District** - Century House, breakfast Call for time.
- Oct. 21** – Thursday – SSPL* – **Redistricting: Why? How?** – 7pm
- Oct. 25** – Monday – **Candidate Forum: 109th Assembly District** – Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library – 6:45pm
- Nov. 2**- Tuesday – **Election Day** – 6am to 9pm
- Nov. 9** – Tuesday – United Nations - **LWVNY Day at the UN (focusing on micro-financing)** – bus to and from the city likely – all day—fees.

- Nov. 12** – Friday – Location TBA – **Celebrating 90 Years of LWV and Women’s Suffrage on Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s Birthday** – nominal fee & cash bar – evening
- Nov. 17** – Wednesday – SSPL* – **Hydrofracking for Natural Gas** – 7pm
- Jan. 17** – Monday – SSPL* – **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Focusing on Keeping Civil Discourse Civil** – afternoon
- Jan. 27** – Thursday – SSPL* - **LWVNY (and local) Program Planning** – 7pm
- Feb. 12** – Saturday – Location TBA – **Famous Person Fundraiser, with Breakfast Buffet** – fee – 9 to 11:30 AM
- Date TBA** – Location and time TBA - fee - **Meet Your Legislators**
- March 23** – Wednesday OR
- April 12** - Tuesday – SSPL* - **The Compact for the National Popular Vote** – 7pm
- May 19** – Thursday – SSPL* – **TBA** – 7pm
- May 20 -22** – Friday, Saturday & Sunday – Albany – fees- **LWVNY Convention** – day and night
- June 4th or 5th** – Saturday or Sunday – Location, time and meal TBA – fee – **LWV Saratoga 45th Annual Meeting, Topic: Free Speech, the Constitution and Corporations**
- June 23** – Thursday – SSPL* - **Report from Convention & Scheduling for 2011-2012** – 7pm

All programs are open to the public, and unless a fee is noted, they are free. Most 7pm events at SSPL are preceded by food and informal conversation starting at 6pm. This listing is subject to Change and Additions. Check our website www.lwvsaratoga.org for the most up to date information.

*SSPL= Saratoga Springs Public Library

New Republican Commissioner of Elections Appointed

Roger Schiera was nominated by the Saratoga County Republican Committee (Jasper Nolan, Chair) and appointed by the Board of Supervisors as the Republican Commissioner of Elections.

He replaces Diane Wade, a Commissioner who put a premium on serving the public in a friendly, efficient, and helpful manner. Diane always tried to make decisions based on the spirit of the Election Law. She struggled bravely with cancer, had to re-

sign in May, and died in July. She was a friend to the LWV.

Schiera has been a resident of Malta since 2003, and campaigned with the Town Republican Committee. He is a graduate of NYU’s Law School, was a counsel to the Long Island Railroad for 20 years, and worked for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and NYS DOT.

Barbara Thomas

OPEN LETTER to the League of Women Voters of Saratoga County

Thank you so much for allowing me to represent our League at the LWVUS Convention in Atlanta in June. It was an honor to be there and to be by Lori Dawson's side as she strongly advocated for the Marriage Equality and National Popular Vote programs. She put Saratoga County on the map, and we can all be very proud of her.

When asked to attend, I was willing to go because I thought it would help me better understand my role on the board. Little did I know it would be so transformative for me as an officer and also as a member of the LWV.

I've been a League member for almost 20 years, have served several terms on the board, and was even the acting president for a brief stint. I have supported the organization because of its reasoned approach to issues and its firm foundation in "fanning the flames of democracy." But I always thought the progressive bias in our county had to do with the type of folks we attracted to the board. It wasn't until I went to Convention that I fully realized how progressive the national organization is. I just didn't have a context for our work.

In addition to maintaining the current program, the body assembled in Atlanta debated, discussed and passed the following additions:

- More comprehensive arms control language in current program,
- Support for the National Popular Vote (NPV),
- Support for Marriage Equality,
- Support for Improved Medicare for All,

- Greater restrictions on mining and drilling,
- Reduced use of the filibuster in the US Senate,
- Increased transparency in the voting process (e.g. machines that are easy to audit),
- Condemnation of the Gulf Oil disaster,
- Lift on the travel ban to Cuba.

They also will be studying the role of the federal government in public education and privatization of government services, two valuable and timely issues. Not only was the nature of the items impressive, but the debate without rancor on such controversial items was amazing to watch in action. I was not prepared for such a progressive national agenda and was so very proud to be part of setting it.

So now, how does that translate for me back at the grassroots? Locally, we do good work; that's what's kept me engaged for so long. Our marriage equality panel was right on target. Pat Reed has been a good model for activism regarding health care reform. Yet there is so much more to do. At our annual meeting, Barb Thomas gave an impassioned speech about the LWV being the antithesis to the Tea Partiers. While they advocate for less government, we believe that there is a strong role for government to play in safeguarding the common good. Following this national convention, I believe it's time to contextualize our local League as a home for those who are feeling unrepresented in the partisan politics playing out across the country.

As we were directed from the dais in Atlanta, League members need to be "in the way."

In League, **Pat**
Pat Nugent



Left: leaguers from across the country worked together to get LWVUS to adopt a position in support of **IMPROVED MEDICARE FOR ALL!**

UPDATE

The Compact For the National Popular Vote passed the NYS Senate with bi-partisan support this session. The Assembly hasn't taken action yet. We're on our way to implementing the newly adopted LWVUS position in favor of NPV!

COMING EVENTS

VOTE! Tuesday, Sept. 14th
Primary Day Noon—9pm

Sept.19th, Sunday, Peace Fair,
NE Pres/Congregational Church,
afternoon

Sept.23rd,Thursday, 7pm SSPL
Communication: New Choices
see p. 1

Sept.28, Tuesday, Pro's & Con's
of Proposed New Charter for
Saratoga Springs—7pm SSPL
see p. 1

Sept. 29th, Wednesday, 6:30pm to
8:30pm, Hurrah for LWV Sara-
toga County (Orientation for new
& prespective members) *see p. 3*
for details.



**THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
OF SARATOGA COUNTY**

P.O. BOX 1029 SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY 12866

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CONTENTS

Annual Meeting revisited.....5
 Communication: New Choices.....1
 Contributors4
 From the President2
 Hurrah for LWV Saratoga.....3
 In Memoriam4
 New charter.....1
 New Members.....4
 Officers of LWV Saratoga County....2
 Open Letter to the LWV.....7
 Rep. Comr. Of Elections appointed...6
 Save These Dates6
 Voters' Services4

GET INVOLVED! GIVE 2 HOURS A MONTH TO THE OBSERVER CORP
Contact Denny Finneran at 583-1478

JOIN US & MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- YES!** I Would like to join the League. 2010 -2011 dues enclosed.
- \$50 Individual \$75 Household \$25 Student
- Please send more information I would like to subscribe to the BULLETIN, \$15. enclosed
- In addition, I would like to contribute \$ _____

NAME _____

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CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE (home) _____ (other) _____

E-MAIL _____

Mail to: Membership, League of Women Voters P.O. Box 1029, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866